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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,257	07/27/2001	Masayuki Hisatake	040894-5692	6806

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EXAMINER	
MILIA, MARK R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/915,257	HISATAKE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark R. Milia	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 November 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 11/9/06 and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 1-9 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 11/9/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant asserts, with respect to claim 5, that the reference of Tanimoto (JP 11-127297) fails to teach or suggest at least the features of "a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole information based on a result of exchange of the negotiation information". Upon further review of the reference the examiner respectfully disagrees as the reference of Tanimoto does disclose such a feature. Particularly, Tanimoto states in paragraphs 6-10, and as depicted in Drawing 4, that the TIFF file can be a multi-page TIFF and is read similarly to the way in which the single-page TIFF is read, sequentially from the header. Tanimoto also states that one or more image data may be present and the multi-page TIFF is read and converted to dot data in a similar fashion to the single-page TIFF (see paragraphs 34-39 and 50).

The applicant further asserts that Tanimoto fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of checking the header information of the image information to identify whether the image data and the attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis throughout the image information. The examiner respectfully disagrees as Tanimoto does disclose such a feature for the same reasons as given in reference to claim 5 above. Further, Tanimoto discloses determining whether the attribute information and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis because the multi-page TIFF includes all the attribute and image data information which is sequentially read and converted (see paragraphs 4-10, 13, 16, 24, 28, 30, 31, 34-39 and 49-50).

In view of the current amendments to the claims a new grounds of rejection will be made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 11-127297 to Tanimoto, as cited on Information Disclosure Statement dated July 27, 2001.

Regarding claim 1, Tanimoto discloses an image information processing apparatus comprising: a communication unit that receives image information in an

image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information (see Drawings 1 and 2 and paragraphs [0013], [0016], and [0018]), and a controller, when header information included in the image information indicates that a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information, decompresses the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0039], and [0049]-[0050], reference states that the image data is decompressed at the time of reception , which is analogous to the claim limitation, further TIFF file headers are always arranged in a predetermined sequence).

Regarding claim 2, Tanimoto discloses an image information processing apparatus comprising: a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0039], and [0049]-[0050]), and an output unit that outputs the generated information, wherein a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence, and the image information includes header information identifying that the plurality of attribute information and the plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence in a whole image information (see Drawing 1 and 4 and

paragraphs [0004]-[0010] and [0020] lines 2-5, TIFF file headers are always arranged in a predetermined sequence).

Regarding claim 4, Tanimoto discloses an image information processing apparatus comprising: a communication unit that receives image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information and that exchanges, with a sender device externally connected via a network, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and attribute the information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0039], and [0049]-[0050]), and a controller that decompresses the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information, when the received negotiation information indicates that a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information (see paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0016], [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], and [0034]-[0039]).

Regarding claim 5, Tanimoto discloses an image information processing apparatus comprising: a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0038], and [0049]-[0050]), a communication unit exchanges, with a receiver

device externally connected via a network and is to send image information, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute the information and that outputs the generated image information, wherein a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information based on a result of exchange of the negotiation information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0039], and [0049]-[0050], TIFF file headers are always arranged in a predetermined sequence).

Regarding claim 6, Tanimoto discloses a computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for entering and decompressing image information, the processes comprising: receiving the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information (see Drawings 1 and 2 and paragraphs [0013], [0016], and [0018]), if header information of the image information indicates that a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in the predetermined sequence in a whole image information, decompressing the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0015], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0039], and [0049]-[0050]).

Regarding claim 7, Tanimoto discloses a computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for producing image information, the processes comprising: generating image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0038], and [0049]-[0050]), storing identifying information into header information of the image information, wherein the identifying information indicates that a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data are stored in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information (see Drawing 4 and paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0016], [0024], and [0034]-[0039]), producing the image information by means of storing the attribute information and the image data in the predetermined sequence (see paragraphs [0013], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3, [0034]-[0038], and [0049]-[0050]), and outputting the produced image information (see paragraphs [0020] lines 2-5 and [0038]).

Regarding claim 8, Tanimoto discloses a computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for entering and decompressing image information, the processes comprising: receiving the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4 and paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], and [0018]), conducting negotiations with a sender device externally connected via network in connection with a

layout sequence of the image data and attribute information (see paragraphs [0034]-[0039]), and decompressing the image data included in the received image information on acquiring the attribute information, when it is identified that a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information through the negotiation (see paragraphs [0030] lines 1-4 and [0031] lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 9, Tanimoto disclose a computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processing for producing image information, the processes comprising: conducting negotiations with a receiver device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information to be output (see paragraphs [0034]-[0038]), producing the image information by means of arranging a plurality of attribute information and a plurality of image data in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information based on a result of negotiations (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, paragraphs [0004]-[0010], [0013], [0016], [0024], [0028] lines 3-6, [0030] lines 1-4, [0031] lines 1-3], [0034]-[0039], and [0049]-[0050]), and outputting the produced image information (see paragraphs [0020] lines 2-5 and [0038]).

Regarding claim 3, Tanimoto further discloses wherein said output unit exchanges negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of attribute information and image data with a receiver device which receives the image information, (see Drawings 1, 2, and 4, and paragraphs [0004]-[0010] and [0035]-

[0038]), and said controller generates the image information on the basis of a result of the exchange negotiation information (see paragraphs [0038] and [0049]).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached at (571) 272-7406. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark R. Milia
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

MRM

TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER